

Remarks

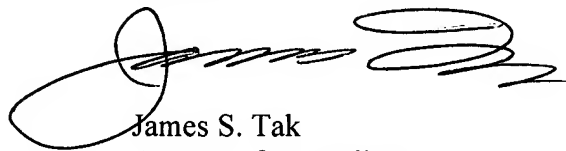
Applicants have amended the first sentence of the specification to correct the benefit claim, i.e. priority claim to provisional application filed on May 30, 2003, Serial Number 60/475,212, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5). It is submitted the benefit claim is made during the pendency of the present application and within 4 months from the actual filing date thereof.

For the aforementioned reasons, Applicants request a corrected filing receipt to include the corrected benefit claim.

In addition, Applicants have amended claims 3, 7, and 11 to replace "concavely" with "convexedly." It is submitted that the amendments contain no new matter, with support for said amendments found in the specification, claims, and drawings.

In the event that the Examiner finds any impediment to the present application that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7274.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: January 7, 2003 By:

James S. Tak
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,367

Lawrence Livermore National Lab
7000 East Avenue, L-703
Livermore, CA 94550
TEL: (925) 422-7274
FAX: (925) 423-2231



10. (original): The vehicle attachment of claim 9,

further comprising an upper horizontal boattail plate orthogonally attached to the base surface of the bluff body and inwardly offset from the top trailing edge to produce an upper horizontal channel which generates, in the flowstream, an upper horizontally-aligned vortical structure therein, said upper horizontal boattail plate having a plate width defined by a rear edge spaced from the base surface, and a peak plate width at a location between left and right ends thereof, corresponding to a peak vortex of the upper horizontally-aligned vortical structure.

11. (currently amended): The vehicle attachment of claim 9 or 10,

wherein the rear edges of the boattail plates are ~~concavely~~ convexedly curvilinear.

12. (original): The vehicle attachment of claim 9 or 10,

wherein the rear edges of the boattail plates are angular to produce wedge-shaped boattail plates.

13. (original): In a bluff body land-based vehicle having a leading end, a trailing end, a top surface, opposing first and second side surfaces, and a substantially flat base surface at the trailing end substantially normal to a longitudinal centerline of the bluff body, the improvement comprising:

means located alongside at least one of the top surface and first and second side surfaces for generating, in a flowstream substantially parallel to the longitudinal centerline, a pair of counter-rotating vortices which confluence together downstream in the wake of the vehicle in a direction orthogonal to the flowstream such that the confluence induces the flowstream passing over the top surface to turn down and around behind the trailing end to raise the pressure on the base surface and reduce the aerodynamic base drag.